SEVENTH ANNUAL MARYLAND POTATO SHOW

Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, January 7 to 10, 1947.

Sponsored by the

Maryland Farm Bureau Federation and Maryland Vegetable Growers Association

REGULATIONS

No entry fee will be charged. Since this show is sponsored by the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association, all exhibitors should become members. Members will receive all reports issued by the association which will include a monthly news letter and the annual proceedings. If the exhibitors desire a deduction of one dollar will be made from premium awards for membership by notifying Dr. R. A. Jehle or Mr. F. C. Stark.

Exhibits may be entered only by the grower and owner of the crop. Only one exhibit may be entered in any class. Juniors may exhibit only in the junior group but may enter more than one exhibit in any class, provided each entry is a different variety.

Exhibits should be sent by prepaid express or parcel post to the State Potato Show, Lord Baltimore Hotel, c/o Dr. R. A. Jehle, Baltimore, Maryland, and should arrive not later than January 7. Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. on January 8, so it is necessary to have the exhibits at the hotel before that time.

Arrangements for the return of the exhibits must be made by the exhibitors; otherwise, the exhibits will be disposed of by the Maryland Vegetable Growers Association.

White and Sweet Potatoes

Each exhibit shall consist of sixteen (16) potatoes.

Group I - Adult Certified

Open to all potato growers in Maryland who have produced seed potatoes eligible for certification. Exhibits must be selected from potatoes grown in fields which have passed all certification requirements of the Maryland Seed Certification Board in the field inspections.

Class		Premiums	
Class I.	Irish Cobbler	1st. $3.00	4th. $1.50
		2nd. $2.50	5th. $1.00
Class II.	Marygold	3rd. $2.00	6th. $1.00
Class III.	Any other Early or Medium Early Variety (Warba, Chippewa, Katahdin, etc.)	Same Premiums	
Class IV.	Dakota Red	Same Premiums	
Class V.	Any other Late Variety (Sequoia, Rural, Pontiac, etc.) Variety must be designated	Same Premiums	
Class VI.	Sweet Potatoes, Any Variety Variety must be designated.	Same Premiums	

Group II - Adult Commercial

Open to all potato growers in Maryland.

Class	Premiums	
Class VII. Irish Cobbler	1st. $3.00 2nd. $2.50 3rd. $2.00	4th. $1.50 5th. $1.00 6th. $1.00
Class VIII. Marygold		
Class IX. Any other Early or Medium Early Variety (Warba, Chippewa, Triumph, Katahdin, etc.) Variety must be designated.	Same Premiums	
Class X. Dakota Red	Same Premiums	
Class XI. Potomac	Same Premiums	
Class XII. Any other Late Variety (Pontiac, Rural, Green Mountain, etc.) Variety must be designated.	Same Premiums	
Class XIII. Sweet Potatoes, Maryland Golden	Same Premiums	
Class XIV. Sweet Potatoes, Porto Rico	Same Premiums	
Class XV. Sweet Potatoes - Any other variety. Variety must be designated.	Same Premiums	
Class XVI. White Potatoes, any variety (Variety must be designated). Commercial Table Stock, 1/2 bushel exhibits.	1st. $5.00 2nd. $2.50 3rd. $1.50	
Class XVII. Sweet Potatoes, Maryland Golden. Commercial table stock. 1/2 bushel exhibits.	Same Premiums as above.	

Group III - Junior Certified and Commercial

Open to all 4-H Club and FFA members listed in the State Office who had potatoes for their project.

Class		
Class XVIII. Early Varieties (Irish Cobbler, Warba, Triumph, Marygold, etc.) Variety must be designated.	1st. $3.00 2nd. $2.50 3rd. $2.00	4th. $1.50 5th. $1.00 6th. $1.00
Class XIX. Medium Early or Medium Late Varieties. (Katahdin, Chippewa, Pontiac, etc.) Variety must be designated.	Same Premiums	
Class XX. Late Varieties. (Rurals, Dakota Red, Sequoia, Potomac, etc.) Variety must be designated.	Same Premiums	
Class XXI. Sweet Potatoes, any variety. Variety must be designated.	Same Premiums	

The February, 1947 Edition Vol. XXIV, No. 1

NEWSLETTER

For the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association

A. Lee Towson, President
Edgar L. Williams, Vice-President
Francis C. Stark, Jr., Sec.-Treas.
C. H. Smith, Director
S. H. Phillips, Director
C. C. Phillips, Director

GROW BETTER MARYLAND SWEET POTATOES-----

Sweet potato producers, brokers and canners in Maryland have requested that a program be outlined leading to the improvement of the Maryland Golden sweet potato. Difficulties encountered in recent years include the fact that the variety is showing some variability as to internal color, and that pox is very prevalent in the sweet potato producing areas.

Maryland growers must produce high quality sweet potatoes if they want to receive top prices for their product in the market. During the war years quantity instead of quality was emphasized. The highly competitive market in the coming years will demand high quality sweet potatoes and it is up to the grower to meet this demand.

The six point program which follows will help growers produce better Maryland sweet potatoes:

1. Save Best Potatoes For Bedding-----Many growers sell their best potatoes and use what is left for sprout production. This practice of bedding poor seed will naturally result in the production of poor grade sweet potatoes. Keep only the best potatoes from your storage house for bedding, or buy seed known to be of high quality.

2. Clean Out Old Seed Beds And Put in New Soil-----Black rot and other diseases live from year to year in soil and refuse of your sweet potato bed. This infected soil must be removed and replaced with new soil before bedding this year's crop. Also remove all sweet potato refuse near the seed beds and keep this area clean during the sprout production period.

3. Sort Seed Just Before Bedding, Throwing Out All Rots-----Sort the seed at the storage house, throwing away all rotted or otherwise undesirable potatoes. One rotten potato bedded this spring may produce 1000 rotten potatoes this fall by spreading disease through the seed bed and by producing diseased sprouts.

4. Cut Seed and Throw Out Poorly Colored Potatoes-----The seed selected for bedding should be cut or sliced and all off-color potatoes discarded. Orange-fleshed sweet potatoes tend to change to a white type which is very objectionable on the market. This has been especially true of Maryland Golden and can easily be prevented by being sure that only potatoes with proper flesh color are used for sprout production. Also this examination for proper color will discard potatoes infected with the wilt disease.

5. Dip Seed In Wettable Spergon-----Chemical dip treatments which have been recommended for many years have not been widely used in Maryland because they often injured the potatoes so severly that sprout production was greatly reduced. Experiments conducted by the University of Maryland show that Wettable Spergon will give good control of seed bed disease without injuring sprout production. This chemical will also prevent the rotting which has been a problem when cut potatoes were bedded.

Use Wettable Spergon at the rate of one pound to five gallons of water. Mix thoroughly by first adding a small amount of water to the Spergon and then adding the rest of the water. Bushel baskets with coarse mesh wire in place of the regular bottoms are good for dipping or regular bushel baskets may be used. The container should be moved up and down in the solution several times so that all of the potatoes are thoroughly wet and then allowed to drain. The potatoes can be bedded at once or allowed to dry. Do not use the Spergon solution after it has been allowed to stand overnight. Wettable Spergon is safe to handle as it is considered relatively non-poisonous and non-injurious to the skin.

The cost of Wettable Spergon should be about _____per pound but since about 200 bushels can be dipped in 30 gallons of solution, the cost of treating a bushel of seed will be only about three cents.

Neither Spergon nor any other material will cure a rotten sweet potato so discard rots before treating.

6. Grow Next Year's Seed In a Special Field-----Select a field which has not been in sweet potatoes for at least five years. Set this field with only healthy sprouts or make a later planting with vine cuttings produced by sprouts from selected seed. Inspect this field when the plants begin to run and pull out all diseased plants.

Save seed stock from this field, being careful not to pick up any diseased potatoes. Mark these baskets so they will be saved for sprout production.

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CANNERS' AND FIELD MEN'S SCHOOL-----

The Horticultural Department of the University of Maryland and the Tri-State Packers' Association are sponsoring a short course for canners, freezers, and growers on February 11, 12, and 13. All general sessions will be held at the Administration Building Auditorium, with some special sessions being held in the Horticultural Building. The program has been arranged on a commodity basis with tomatoes being discussed on Tuesday and on Wednesday morning. Lima and snap bean sessions are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. Thursday will be devoted to sweet corn in the morning and peas in the afternoon.

The short course opens up with the tomato session at 10:30 on Tuesday morning, February 11, with a discussion of late blight of tomatoes. Topics for the Tuesday afternoon session include tomato production practices, buying tomatoes on grades, and southern tomato plants. The Wednesday morning program is devoted to the use of calcium salts in canned tomatoes, results of tomato variety tests in Maryland in 1946, and studies on the ascorbic acid (vitamin C) content of tomatoes.

This is followed by a cutting demonstration of the different varieties of tomatoes canned as whole tomatoes and as juice. Time is then set aside particularly for the examination of the various spraying and dusting equipment which will be on display in the Horticultural Building.

The bean sessions will include such subjects as snap bean production practices, the status of canned snap bean standards, dusting beans for the Mexican Bean Beetle, and new varieties and strains of Lima beans. Following this, samples of canned and frozen snap beans and lima beans of various varieties at different stages of maturity will be examined.

Thursday morning is devoted to discussions on sweet corn with reference to date of harvest studies in Maryland and in other states in 1946, and the 1946 variety studies.

Thursday afternoon a panel will discuss the inoculation of peas, followed by speakers on the new pea varieties, observations in several pea growing areas, pea aphid control in Maryland and the effect of delayed harvestings.

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A STATEMENT ON FARM PROGRAM POLICY FOR THE FUTURE BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ANDERSON before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Jan. 23, says in part:

I should like to begin this discussion by reviewing what I believe to be sound, long-time objectives for agriculture. Briefly, the kind of agriculture we all want is the kind that will provide adequate supplies of farm and forest products and give farm people returns on their efforts that are on a par with those enjoyed by other groups who make comparable contributions to the general welfare.

We all want to see greater efficiency in farm production and marketing for the benefit both of producers and consumers; we want to see an improved standard of nutrition and better living standards generally for farm families; we all want to avoid waste of our natural resources.

The goals for 1947 called for continued high agricultural production for the simple reason that the outlook for American agriculture is good for 1947 and, I hope, for many more years ahead.

We have asked for continued high wheat production. Our ability to export wheat is now limited only by our ability actually to deliver it at ports.

The 1947 goals call for a substantial acreage of peanuts, and for real increases in the acreages of soybeans and flaxseed. Again, however, the whole world fats and oils situation is tight and the outlook for oil crops is good.

The goals call for high production of dairy products and of meat.

If we are to have meat and milk we must have feed and so, the goals for corn and the other feed crops are high.

All this adds up to a good agricultural outlook for 1947. But it adds up to much more than that. It underlines and emphasizes the importance of maintaining maximum employment in this country and of encouraging foreign trade. In fact, a rather happy solution to many of our price and production problems could be worked out if we were sure that maximum employment could be retained and that we could find ways of maintaining or increasing our foreign trade in such commodities as cotton and wheat.

One of our basic objectives now must be to promote production shifts in the direction most desirable, both from the standpoint of better national nutrition standards and from the standpoint of a desirable pattern of land use.

Fortunately, the desirable adjustments in acreage and production of livestock to supply the greater amounts of the protective foods needed for better nutrition are the kind of changes in land use needed for good conservation. The whole question of conservation of soil, water, and forest resources is one that should be reviewed carefully in the light of our needs for a permanent, long-time policy.

The question of how to achieve desirable long-time agricultural policies for the nation will involve consideration not only of existing legislation, but of needed additional legislation. This problem should now be less difficult than in the past.

Valuable experience has been gained during the war and the decade that preceded the war in dealing with farm problems. This experience and the lessons learned in the 1920's can provide the basis for development now of a farm policy for the future that will make a lasting contribution to the nation's welfare.

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THE SUPPLY SITUATION WITH INSECTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES-----

(From the AIF News - in December)
Calcium Arsenate - probably adequate now.
Copper fungicides:
Sulfate - adequate.
Monohydrate - tight.
DDT formulations - tight.
Lead arsenate - tight.
Nicotine - tight.
Organic fungicides - mostly tight.
Rotenone - tight; uncertain.
Sulfur - adequate.
2,4-D formulations - tight.

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If a check mark appears here_____your 1947 dues have not been received. Dues are $1.00 and may be mailed to the Secretary at the Department of Horticulture, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

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The March-April, 1947 Edition Vol. XXIV, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

For the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association

A. Lee Towson, President
Edgar L. Williams, Vice-President
Francis C. Stark, Jr., Sec.-Treas.

C. H. Smith, Director
S. H. Phillips, Director
C. C. Phillips, Director

APPOINTMENT OF NEW VEGETABLE SPECIALIST-----

Mr. Edward K. Bender comes to the Department of Horticulture on May 1 to assist in the various extension activities with vegetable crops. Mr. Bender was reared on a vegetable farm in Pennsylvania, and taught vocational agriculture in that state prior to the war. Since his return from the armed services he has been assistant county agent Montgomery county, where he has been doing excellent work with the suburban gardeners in that area.

In announcing his appointment, Dr. I. C. Haut, Head of the Horticultural Department stated that "Extension activities are a necessary adjunct to any research program. We are expanding our program of research and extension with vegetable crops in an effort to keep pace with the needs of the industry".

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TOMATO AND POTATO LATE BLIGHT WARNING SERVICE-----

Number 1

The purpose of this statement is to summarize the late blight situation to date.

Late blight appeared on potatoes in Florida in November 1946. While it did not become epidemic it continued to spread slowly in that state during December and January and by February 1 was general on potatoes and tomatoes along the lower east coast of Florida.

During early February it spread northward along the east coast of Florida. Sprays and dusts of fixed copper or Dithane were bringing the disease under control.

Severe cold weather in mid-February killed almost all potatoes and tomatoes along the east coast and prevented further development of the disease there, but late blight had appeared on the west coast near Bradenton where frost damage was not extensive.

By the middle of March late blight had not re-appeared on the east coast of Florida while on the west coast it was general on tomatoes, but not causing severe losses. Practically all growers in that area were spraying either with fixed copper or Dithane or alternating with the two. Power equipment gave best results, but hand operated sprayers were satisfactory on small acreage if the job was done thoroughly.

During early April rains and temperatures in Florida were favorable for spread of late blight and it became more destructive on the west coast. It also reappeared on the new crop of both potatoes and tomatoes on the east coast. In that area fixed copper or Dithane dusts are being used extensively and are reported to be holding losses to a minimum.

In February it was reported that the late blight fungus had overwintered on tomato vines in the field in Alabama.

In Louisiana, late blight was found on tomato seedlings and older plants in a greenhouse at Lafayette in February. A report dated April 15 states that late blight was first seen on potatoes in the field in Louisiana on April 7. Heavy rains, wind and cool, cloudy weather for several days during the middle of the month were favorable for late blight and the disease was spreading. Serious losses are expected there since potatoes are 2 to 3 weeks late and practically none of the growers are equipped to spray or dust.

Late blight has not been found, so far, in any other state.

This statement summarizes the first seven reports of the National late blight warning service. As the season progresses reports from this office will be more frequent if the disease continues to develop.

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NEW NITROGEN FERTILIZER DEVELOPED-----

A slow-acting nitrogen fertilizer that feeds crops over a long growing period has been developed by soil scientists of the Department of Agriculture. The fertilizer is one of a series of combinations of urea and formaldehyde known as Uraform. It is produced at present only on a laboratory scale.

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If a check mark appears here____your 1947 dues have not been received. Dues are $1.00 and may be mailed to the Secretary at the Department of Horticulture, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

The June, 1947 Edition Vol. XXIV, No. 3

NEWSLETTER

For the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association

A. Lee Towson, President
Edgar L. Williams, Vice-President
Francis C. Stark, Jr., Sec.-Treas.
C. H. Smith, Director
S. H. Phillips, Director
C. C. Phillips, Director

TOMATO AND POTATO LATE BLIGHT WARNING SERVICE-----

Statement No. 5 June 6, 1947

Progress Report on Late Blight

1. Late Blight unlikely to develop on tomatoes and potatoes in eastern Virginia: Dr. H. T. Cook reports that weather conditions unfavorable for late blight continue in the Norfolk area. During the two weeks beginning May 8th only 33 hundredths of an inch of rain fell there. This is considerably less than is required for late blight to develop. In 1938 and 1946 when late blight was serious more than 2 1/2 inches of rain fell during the same two week period. Temperatures have been above normal. Since the weather has been unfavorable for the disease during the first 3 weeks of the critical period Dr. Cook predicts that in that area late blight is unlikely to be important during the summer of 1947.

2. No late blight so far in Pennsylvania: During the 2 weeks ending June 2 plant pathologists in Pennsylvania examined over 50 tomato fields set with southern as well as home grown plants and found no sign of late blight.

3. No late blight has been reported so far in Maryland: The several lots of southern plants which have been examined have been unusually free of diseases of any kind. County Agents report that tomatoes in the field are also practically disease free. No late blight was found on potatoes on the Eastern Shore when Dr. R. A. Jehle examined fields there during the last week in May.

4. No late blight in Arkansas: So far there has been no late blight on potatoes or tomatoes.

5. Potato late blight in southwest Indiana: On May 22 traces of late blight were found on one farm in Warrick County. This is the third successive season that this particular early potato grower has encountered late blight. He is now dusting by airplane as the soil is too wet to permit ground machines. Weather conditions there have been favorable for development of the disease. It is likely that the tomato strain has overwintered in home-grown seed potatoes in that area.

6. Late blight again active in Louisiana: For 2 weeks prior to May 20 the weather had been warm and dry and blight had apparently been checked. Rain and a drop in temperature occurred on May 20 and was followed by cool wet weather which caused the fungus to become active again. The disease has appeared on late potatoes and has been spreading to tomatoes in gardens next to the fields. Both foliage and fruits of tomatoes are severely attacked.

The critical period for late blight in most of Maryland will probably be during the next two weeks. The five day weather forecast is for frequent light showers, but with temperatures somewhat above normal, thus conditions will not be ideal for development of the disease. If late blight should appear it should be reported at once.---------- Carroll E. Cox, Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology.

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BLIGHT RESISTANT TOMATO PLANTS-----

Nine thousand plants of the tomato Cr W 104-5 were sent out to be placed in 21 demonstrations over the state this spring.

Cr W 104-5 is a strain recently released for testing by Drs. C. F. Andrus and B. L. Wade of the Regional Vegetable Breeding Laboratory at Charleston. It is reported as being resistant to late blight, resistant to collar rot, and pratically immune to fusarium wilt. While it has slightly smaller fruit and the fruit are a flat type, it has yielded as heavy as Rutgers in previous tests.

If blight should be a problem in Maryland again this year, the strain will have an adequate test under Maryland conditions to determine its usefulness. It is in demonstrations on the farms listed below. You are invited to stop in at the farm nearest you to see it.

County	Town	Farm
Anne Arundel	Jessup	Maryland House of Correction
Baltimore	Reisterstown	Fred Wilson
	Sparrows Point	F. Ridgely Todd
	Hyde	Foard Bros.
Caroline	Preston	Brooks Nagel
	Ridgely	W. S. Carroll
Cecil	One demonstration	See County Agent
Dorchester	Vienna	Guy R. Phillips
Frederick	Thurmont	Frederick City Packing Co.
Harford	Two demonstrations	See County Agent
Queen Annes	Queenstown	S. E. W. Friel
Somerset	Pocomoke	Ralph Lankford.(4-H)
Talbot	Cordova	Otis George
	Trappe	Charles Carroll
Washington	Smithsburg	Jason Geiser
	Smithsburg	Ora Harshman
	Smithsburg	Robert Winters
Wicomico	Allen	Luther E. Payne
	Hebron	Milton E. Hearne
Worcester	Snow Hill	R. Newell Stagg
	Snow Hill	S. Otis Northam

SWEET POTATO INTERNAL CORK-----

Internal cork was discovered in South Carolina sweet potatoes in 1944 by Dr. C. J. Nusbaum.

It produces dark brown to black hard corky spots or irregular areas in the flesh of the sweet potato roots. After cooking the diseased tissue remains hard and has a slightly bitter flavor. The flavor and consistancy of surrounding tissue is not affected. The internal cork spots are permanent. They increase in size and number during the growing season and even more so in storage.

Vine symptoms are usually associated with the disease but their connection with the root symptoms has not been definitely established. Vine symptoms consist of light green spotting or blotching of the foliage which may be followed by the development of surrounding purple rings. Finally these distinguishable symptoms may fray out and disappear.

The amount of corking varies in different varieties. Porto Rico shows much, Nancy Hall little. Internal cork has also been found in Nancy Gold and Yellow Jersey; in fact it has been found in all seedlings and varieties examined where the vines are exposed to the disease. It has not been found in Maryland Golden.

Transmission of internal cork by core grafts has been successful in every instance leaving little doubt as to the virus nature of the pathogen. Healthy stock planted adjacent to diseased stock has become affected. The disease has not been transmitted by juice from infected plants thru rubbing healthy foliage nor by using needle punctures. No suspicious symptoms have been observed on wild morning glory and the host range is not known. The vector is not known but circumstantial evidence points to probable insect transmission.

Internal cork has been found in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.----- R. A. Jehle, State Plant Pathologist.

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4-H CANNING CROPS CONTEST-----

The Canning Crop Contest sponsored by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will again be carried on this year in the following counties: Baltimore, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, Washington, Alleghany, Anne Arundel, Garrett, Howard and Prince Georges.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad will present to the first place winner in the project a cash award of $50.00, to the second place winner a cash award of $35.00 and to the third place winner a cash award of $15.00

Winners will be selected on the basis of average yields per acre from the area entered in the project. Peas, tomatoes and sweet corn are the eligible crops and will be weighted on the basis of approved production ratios in order that they may compete on an equal basis. Production information will be secured from the sales receipts submitted by the club members.

The commerical processor can do much to help increase the interest of 4-H boys (and girls) who are usually very conscientious about their project work and try to do a good job along approved lines. Why not discuss it with your County Agricultural Agent or County Club Agent and build up some interest in it? There are a lot of potentalities of this club member becoming a good grower in the future. Besides, it is a fine piece of educational work for your regular growers.

Edward K. Bender, Extension Specialist in Vegetable Crops.

THE MARYLAND TEN-TON TOMATO CLUB

Conducted by the
University of Maryland Extension Service
in cooperation with the
Tri-State Packers' Association

The object of the Maryland Ten-Ton Tomato Club is to stimulate interest in better methods of producing canning tomatoes. Larger yields generally result in better quality and greater profits.

REQUIREMENTS-----

1. The contest is open and free to all Maryland growers who produce three or more acres of tomatoes. All of the tomatoes grown on any one farm and the total acreage produced by the grower must be entered.

2. Enrollment must be made to the Vegetable Crops Specialist, through the County Agent by July 15.

3. Yields per acre will be determined from sales receipts and acreage measurements. Only those tomatoes for which sales receipts have been obtained will be considered in computing yields. A final application, signed by the grower, must be submitted with the acreage and yield reports.

4. Quality grade will be determined on a weighted basis from sales receipts. To be eligible for awards in the quality grade division, sales receipts must be furnished for all the tomatoes sold, and all sales receipts must show the quality grade.

5. The grower must notify the County Agent before the end of the season if the yield is estimated at ten or more tons per acre. Otherwise the field will not be measured. Final yields of growers making over ten tons per acre must be reported through the County Agent to the Vegetable Crops Specialist by October 20.

6. If requested, the grower must sign an affidavit that all deliveries credited to his acreage actually came from the designated land.

7. The grower agrees to report, at the request of the County Agent, the methods used in growing the crop.

AWARDS-----

Growers having from three to eight acres of tomatoes will be included in one group, and those having more than eight acres in another group. Suitable prizes will be awarded the two growers making the highest yields in each group, and to the two growers having the highest quality grade irrespective of acreage. These prizes are given by commercial organizations interested in the canning industry.

All growers entered in the contest who secure yields of ten or more tons per acre will be given certificates of membership in the Maryland Ten-Ton Tomato Club.

The July, 1947 Edition

Vol. XXIV, No. 4

NEWSLETTER

For the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association

A. Lee Towson, President
Edgar L. Williams, Vice-President
Francis C. Stark, Jr., Sec.-Treas.

C. H. Smith, Director
S. H. Phillips, Director
C. C. Phillips, Director

Edward K. Bender - Editor

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association is inaugurating this year a summer tour, so that vegetable producers may see what others are doing in the way of producing and marketing their crops.

The tour this year will be held on Saturday, August 23rd. Producers will see the work under way at the University of Maryland Plant Research Farms and at the U.S.D.A. Horticultural Station. The tour will start at 10:00 A.M. (Daylight Saving Time) from the Horticultural Building at the University of Maryland. A more complete schedule will be supplied later, but the items of interest will include the effect of nutrition levels on growth of cantaloupes, cantaloupe breeding material, cantaloupe variety trials, sweet corn variety trials, tomato varieties, tomato breeding plots, weed control studies on sweet corn, and lima bean varieties.

Anyone interested in vegetable crops production is invited to attend. Membership in the association is not required. President Lee Towson urges each and every member to plan to attend, and to bring a carload of friends with him.

Luncheon will be provided by the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association, and the Extension Service University of Maryland. Come and bring your friends to the tour.

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MEETING DATES OF INTEREST-----

August 23 - Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association summer tour of University of Maryland Plant Research Farms and USDA Horticultural Station. 10:00 A.M. (Daylight Savings Time.)

August 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28 - Vegetable Growers' Association of America. Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting, Carter Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio.

December 4, 5 - Fall Meeting, Tri-State Packers' Association, Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City.

December 11, 12 & 13 - National Junior Vegetable Growers' Association, Heidelberg Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi.

TRUCK RECEIPTS OF VEGETABLES IN BALTIMORE TO BE REPORTED-----

One more step has been taken in the Maryland Agricultural Marketing Program as it is being conducted by the Marketing Department at the University of Maryland. This is in addition to work already underway in testing improved marketing methods for handling sweet corn, on pre-packaging vegetable products, and other similar projects.

The new step calls for the assignment of a market reporter to the Baltimore produce markets. His job will be to report the daily truck receipts of various products and to furnish this information to growers and vegetables handlers.

This work is described as one of the most important steps that can be taken this summer to help Maryland vegetable growers with the marketing of their products. It is expected that the information will help to prevent alternate surplus and shortages of supplies and the resulting price fluctations.

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ASPARAGUS PLANTINGS DYING OUT-----

Many asparagus growers have complained that their beds have "run-out" much quicker than formerly. They talk about the "good old days" when they were able to cut a good crop of spears from a bed for more than 15 years. Now, they claim that their beds are hardly worth cutting after seven or eight years.

Various explanations have been offered for this condition. Such as: the strain is running out; the Washington varieties are not as good as the older ones; or the plants are not set deep enough.

Recent experiments seem to indicate that the real reasons for this condition are that the new beds are cut too hard at first, and then cut over too long a period each spring.

Growers are anxious to get some money out of the bed as soon as possible. The bed has gotten off to a good start, and the plants seem to be well established. So instead of cutting for only 2 or 3 weeks as usually recommended, the first cutting season is extended over a period of four to six weeks. This weakens the plants before they become fully developed and they never are given the chance to recover.

Prices for early asparagus are somewhat depressed by competing heavy shipments from other areas. As the season progresses, prices on our local markets may have a tendency to rise as the amount of grass from other areas decreases. In order to cash in on this, growers cut their beds into July each year.

This late cutting has gradually taken the life out of the plants. Spears have grown thinner. Plants have lost their vigor, and some plants have died out completely.

The number of large stalks has decreased each year, until some beds just do not produce any number one spears. Prices are depressed by the poor quality. Growers get discouraged. Few new beds are set. Quality becomes even worse as a large proportion of spears come from worn-out beds, and the whole business in a particular section goes to "pot".

Starting an asparagus bed is expensive business. If a grower can cut good asparagus from a bed ten years or more, he can make money. If he cuts only fair asparagus from a bed for eight to ten years, he is losing money.

Just when a bed should be allowed to grow up after it is established depends upon location, but as far as Maryland is concerned this should be no later than June 15th. This practice results in healthier, more vigorous plants which means more bunches per acre (yes, even with a shorter cutting season), a greater percentage of large stalks, and longer life for the bed.

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FALL LIMING OF VEGETABLE LAND-----

Fall is a convenient period for applying lime. Areas which require liming can well be treated after crops are harvested. This job accomplished not only lightens the spring rush or work but also affords opportunity for the lime to sweeten up the soil during the winter interval. It is not too early now to figure how much lime will be needed and to order it.

Soil tests will reveal which fields require lime and how much is needed. Samples for testing may be obtained somewhat as follows. With a trowel or spade, and a bucket, walk diagonally across the field to obtain six to twelve or more lots of earth for mixing in the pail. Each digging should represent a thin slice from top to plow depth. When mixed a cupful may be placed in a paper bag or ice cream carton labelled with a number or letter of the field. It is always better to make up separate samples in case portions of a field differ radically in crop performance. The cause might be traced to lime or be due to some other factor.

Market gardeners must observe some caution also not to overlime some fields or for some crops which might be injured. For most crops which benefit from lime, a pH reading from 6.0 to 7.0 is a satisfactory range with 6.5 perhaps ideal. Possible ill effects from overliming around the neutral point of 7.0 or above may induce boron and maganese deficiencies which prevent normal growth of plants.

A few special crops, notably potatoes, definitely prefer quite acid soils--pH 5.0 to 5.4. If they are grown in more highly limed soil suitable for other crops, disease organisms sooner or later will injure them. Scab on potatoes is a familiar example.

Soil once limed retains this condition for some years. Roughly, one may figure a replacement need of one ton of limestone per acre every four or five years under continuous tillage and every five to six years for land in sod. Since lime lasts in a soil quite some time, a plan to retain certain areas on the farm not too highly limed for potatoes and strawberries often is advisable.

The questions of how much limestone will be needed to change soil reaction to a full pH unit of from, say pH 5.0 to 6.0 or from 6.0 to 7.0, is largely guess work. For average soils, an application of one and a half to two tons of limestone usually will effect the change of about a full pH unit to a depth at which lime normally can be disked-say four to five inches. To effect the same change for the entire top soil to plow depth might require an additional ton again after plowing. For light, sandy soils half the above estimates might do.

For heavy soils or those high in organic matter, still larger amounts than the estimate might be required.

One may select limestone with varying amounts of magnesium carbonate ranging from five to twenty-one per cent equivalent magnesium oxide. The balance and major component in all limes will be calcium carbonate. Both compounds sweeten soils and in addition calcium and magnesium are both plant nutrients. Since a deficiency of magnesium has frequently been observed in crops, some attention paid to securing a fair amount of magnesium in lime is worthy of note. On the assumption that the combined outgo of magnesium oxide in crop removal and leaching may be thirty pounds per year, it will require at least one ton of limestone applied every fifth year containing at least seven per cent magnesium oxide to maintain a favorable magnesium balance.

Since, however, vegetable growers fertilize heavily as a rule each year with fertilizers carrying ordinarily enough magnesium for the current crop, magnesium in the limestone for them may be important chiefly as an added safeguard. On this assumption, a fairly low magnesium limestone carrying even five per cent magnesium oxide or 100 pounds to the ton, if applied every four or five years, would safeguard their needs.

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MARYLAND VEGETABLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

August, 1947 (missing issue)
Vol. XXIV, No. 5

The September, 1947 Edition Vol. XXIV, No. 6

NEWSLETTER

For the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association

A. Lee Towson, President
Edgar L. Williams, Vice-President
Francis C. Stark, Jr.,Sec.-Treas.
C. H. Smith, Director
S. H. Phillips, Director
C. C. Phillips, Director
Edward K. Bender - Editor

MEETING DATES OF INTEREST-----

December 4, 5 - Fall Meeting, Tri-State Packers' Association, Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City.

December 11, 12 & 13 - National Junior Vegetable Growers' Association, Heidelberg Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi.

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MARYLAND VEGETABLE GROWERS' TOUR-----

Cantaloupe Breeding and Nutrition.

Cantaloupes need plenty of fertilizer, and the soil nutrients must be in proper balance. This was shown to members of the association who visited the University with the Summer Tour, by Mr. Francis C. Stark. Eighty-one treatments involving three nutritional levels each of potash, calcium, magnesium and boron were seen. The best cantaloupe plants were growing in nutrients where the Boron level was low, and the other elements were balanced at the high levels. The proper application of boron is complicated but seems to be quite necessary when all of the other soil nutrients are at a low level; on the contrary, a high concentration of boron does not seem desirable when the concentration of all other elements are high. With the potassium picture, no fruits set when the potash concentration was low. Vine growth was also very poor at the low potash levels. For general vigor of the vines, a fairly high concentration of calcium and magnesium was important.

Ninety-seven breeding lines and twelve commercial varieties of cantaloupes were examined. Growers were generally enthusiastic about the inbred line #4008. Considerable selection work will be necessary before this line is ready for release, however. The variety Texas Resistant #1 appeared very good in the trials, although the fruits are small. Some resistance to Downy Mildew was apparent, and it is reportedly resistant to Aphis.

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CONTROL OF WEEDS IN SWEET CORN-----

The use of 2-4-D as a pre-emergence weed killer on sweet corn in an experiment this year at the University, did control many of the broad leafed weeds. The 2-4-D was applied at the rate of 1 1/2 lbs. per acre three days after the sweet corn was planted. Although a very uneven stand of corn was obtained due to dry weather following planting, the 2-4-D did effectively control weeds and does not apparently have any detrimental effect on sweet corn production when applied in this manner. It should be remembered that 2-4-D is long lasting in the sprayer and normally cannot be cleaned from the sprayer by use of water. To clean a sprayer after using 2-4-D use about two teaspoons of household ammonia to one gallon of warm water and allow this mixture to remain in the tank for several hours. Drain and wash out any residue.

LIMA BEAN TRIALS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND-----

Lima bean varieties were grown at the Plant Research Farm for three years. Each variety was harvested successfully at different stages of maturity in order to determine the best time to harvest for maximum yield and optimum quality. It was found that lima beans reach their maximum yield at about the time that they are considered somewhat better than standard in quality. Any delay in harvest behind that stage may result in actual loss of yield as well as quality.

Of the new varieties that were grown, U. S. #243 which has recently been given the name of Peerless is very promising from the standpoint of both yield and quality. It is probably more adaptable to growing for fresh markets than for canning because its exceptional tenderness causes breakage of the beans during the vining operation.

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ANNOUNCEMENT-----

The Department of Horticulture of the University of Maryland is pleased to announce the following four-year curriculum of courses for students desiring to major in the field of commercial processing of horticultural crops. This course of study has been established by Dr. I. C. Haut, Head of the Department, and Dr. E. P. Walls, Professor of Canning Crops, in response to requests from leading canners and freezers for trained men, equipped to accept responsible positions in the commercial processing of fruits and vegetables. There also have been demands for additional instruction along this line from interested students.

For the past decade several courses have been offered in the Department of Horticulture, dealing with the processing of crops. A large percentage of students taking these courses have desired to progress further in this type of work. This opportunity is now afforded.

The object of this curriculum is to train men in a very practical way, so they will be well-rounded in the processing business and to give them a thorough background of methods as well as a clear understanding -- of how each step is related to quality.

Electives make it possible for one to specialize in either the Management or Technological phases of the industry.

In order to carry out extensive research activity in the past with various crops, equipment has been constantly added to the Processing Laboratories, until these are now excellently supplied with the necessary machinery to carry through operations as conducted in a commercial plant. The laboratories collectively constitute a well equipped pilot plant, the facilities of which are also available for instructional work.

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The October, 1947 Edition

Vol. XXIV, No. 7

NEWSLETTER

For the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association

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October 28, 1947

SELECT SWEET POTATO SEED NOW-----

Right now is the time for Sweet Potato growers to be sorting out the potatoes which they are going to save for sprout production next spring. The growers have been making special efforts this year to do everything possible to improve the quality and market appeal of the Maryland Golden Sweet Potato. Selection of good seed is one of the most important steps in this program.

Potatoes need not be large. In fact, number 2's and "Strings" may be used, but they should be free of black rot, scurf, pox or any other rot. They also should be good brightly colored specimens.

The roots which are sorted out at this time should be stored carefully and marked "not for sale" so that they will be available next spring. A few extra baskets should be saved so that they will have plenty of seed at the planting season after discarding potatoes with poorly colored flesh.

Growers have made a lot of headway this past year in improving the quality of their crop by cleaning out the seed beds, throwing away rotted seed and by seed treatment. The next step is to prepare for next year by seed selection this fall.

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KEEP YOUR POTATOES FROM SPROUTING IN STORAGE-----

It has been called to your attention before and here it is again that a new chemical, the Methyl Ester of Alpha Napthaleneacetic Acid can be used to keep potatoes and other root crops from sprouting. Several people who have used it last year were surprised at the outstanding results of retarding the sprouting of certain root crops and potatoes in storage.

The chemical may be applied in any of several forms such as shredded paper which has been soaked in the chemical, inert dusts such as talc with which the chemical has been mixed, or sprayed on the potatoes as they are placed in the bin. The material has been found to work very well on carrots, turnips, beets and rutabagas in addition to potatoes.

The material is offered for sale by the following companies under the accompanying names:

Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Michigan. "Dow Sprout Exhibitor."
G. L. F., Terrace Hill, Ithaca, N. Y.-"Dorm-Aid"
American Cyanamid & Chemical Corp., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.
"Hormone Dust N-10-A"

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PLOW UNDER YOUR OLD TOMATO VINES-----

With the ideal weather this fall many farmers have already plowed down their old tomato vines. Other growers are waiting till the first good rainfall, which will help to make the plowing job easier. It is desirable to plow down these old tomato vines now to prevent certain plant diseases from living over the winter according to plant pathologists.

This land should than be fitted and seeded to a cover crop such as rye or wheat. When these are plowed down in the spring, humus will be added to the soil, which will improve the yield of the following crop and prevent winter soil erosion.

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STORE YOUR VEGETABLES NOW-----

Most farmers raise some vegetables of one kind or another for their own use besides the regular crops they grow. Proper care in the storage of these vegetables will pay dividends. The best time to place vegetables in storage is immediately when they have reached their peak as to condition of harvest. This time varies with different kind of vegetables, but is brought out in fine chart form in a new Horticulture Extension Mimeo. by Dr. E. P. Walls. You may obtain a copy of this bulletin free by writing for it.

Different vegetables require different storage conditions; as a rule vegetables dry out or wilt or wither rather quickly unless the atmostphere of their storage place is kept damp and the temperature as low as possible without freezing. There are exceptions to this rule as the case of pumpkins, squashes, and sweet potatoes which require dry, warm, storage conditions.

If you cannot meet the conditions in your cellar, then a barrel sunken partially in the ground is the best place for the storage of root crops such as beets, turnips, carrots, parsnips and cabbage. The barrel should be covered over with alternate layers of soil and straw, as the winter becomes colder, until about 18 to 24 inches of material are on top of it and around the sides. A removable door will be a help to obtain the vegetables from the barrel.

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